

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**SB 896 - HB 850**

March 18, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes a one-time award of 60 days sentence credit for an inmate's successful completion of a general equivalency diploma (GED), college degree or vocational education diploma prior to July 1, 2006.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures - \$392,000**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Correction (DOC), 1214 inmates have completed their GED or a vocational class that will have an expiration date within the next 10 years. 556 with a RED (release eligibility date) within the next 10 years. Of the 556, 210 will also have an expiration date within the next 10 years. DOC estimates that 95% ( $1214 + 210 \times .95 = 1352.8$ ) would be eligible to receive the additional 60-day sentence credits. 135 of these would be released two months earlier (1,353/10 years).
- DOC estimates 346 offenders will meet their RED but not the expiration of their sentence in the next 10 years. 95% (328.7) of those will be eligible for the sentence credits and 10% of those (32.87) or an average of three per year (33/10 years). DOC estimates an average of 138 per year will be released two months earlier.
- The reduction in state expenditures would be reflected in the cost to the Department to house state felons in county jails. When offenders are released from prison, those inmates are replaced with state felons from county jails. The housing per diem for the county jails for FY07 is \$47.34.
- 138 inmates would receive the one-time 60 sentence credit and would decrease state expenditures by \$391,975.20 (138 inmates x 60 days x \$47.34).

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director